

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The focus of this Chapter is the coordination and consultation that has taken place since scoping began in the January 2010, through the development and analysis of alternative planning strategies. This *Proposed RMP/ Final EIS* document has been developed with a broad range of participants.

5.2 PUBLIC SCOPING

The formal scoping process began with the publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* on January 5, 2010 (Volume 75, Number 2, Pages 431-432). This NOI announced the Las Cruces District Office's intent to prepare an RMP, an associated EIS, and to hold a public scoping meeting. Press releases, flyers, paid advertisements in newspapers, and the BLM New Mexico and Las Cruces District project web sites all announced the public scoping period and public scoping meeting also.

An initial public scoping packet was sent to approximately 337 interested parties describing the BLM's intent to prepare an RMP/EIS for the Monument. Throughout the scoping period, an additional 82 scoping packets were mailed. The mailing list included adjacent landowners, grazing permittees, special recreation permittees, interested public, local agencies, government representatives, tribes, and interested organizations. The letter announced the beginning of the formal scoping period, the public Open House, and it requested comments regarding the Plan. Inserted in this mailing was a preaddressed "*Scoping Comment Form*" that individuals could complete and return to the BLM.

One formal scoping meeting was held on January 26, 2010 to share information about the Monument, preliminary issues, and the planning process. The BLM asked the public for comments and suggestions regarding the management of the natural, cultural, recreation, and scientific resources within the Monument. Approximately 100 people attended the public scoping meeting. The BLM received 17,388 total comment submittals, of which 17,287 were a variety of repeat form letters. The themes expressed in these form letters are summarized as follows:

- Monument Legislation should take precedence over any multiple-use mandate
- Move Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) routes outside of the Monument in order to protect the Trackways
- Keep OHV trails within the Monument
- Improve non-motorized access and interpretive information
- Encourage public involvement
- Both do and do not incorporate "*Expanded Boundary Possibilities for Adjacent Areas*" within the RMP
- Consider all cumulative impacts such as loss of motorized recreation opportunities and Community Pit No. 1 reclamation

The other 99 comments followed several common themes about the natural resources within the Monument and the management of those resources.

Informal meetings with a number of groups and agencies have been held prior to and since the public meeting. The initial "*formal scoping*" period closed on February 10, 2010. Although the formal

comment period ended, the BLM has continued to accept and consider all comments received throughout the planning process.

The public was again invited to participate in the review of preliminary management alternatives for the PTNM RMP/EIS through a workshop held on September 22, 2010 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The workshop was conducted as an open forum, with BLM specialists on hand to discuss resource management alternatives. A total of 30 people were in attendance. The comments from the September workshop often reiterated those comments stated at the scoping meeting. This workshop also provided a time for the public to see that the alternatives presented were a wide range of management actions.

5.3 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION EFFORTS

Consultation and coordination with Federal and intergovernmental agencies, organizations, American Indian Tribes, and interested groups and individuals is important to (1) ensure that the most appropriate data have been gathered and employed for the analyses and (2) ensure that agency and public sentiment and values are considered and incorporated into decision making. During the planning process for this RMP/EIS, formal and informal efforts were made by the BLM to involve tribes, other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and the public. The BLM has met its Section 106 responsibilities for the implementation decisions in this document.

5.3.1 Cooperating Agencies

In January and February 2010, letters were sent to the following agencies inviting recipients to become a cooperating agency for this project: City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, New Mexico State Parks.

By definition, a cooperating agency is any Federal, state, or local government agency or Indian tribe that has either jurisdiction by law or special expertise regarding environmental impacts of a proposal. As a cooperating agency, it provides the formal framework for governmental units to engage in active collaboration with the lead Federal agency during the NEPA process. Although the request was sent to these agencies, no agency has pursued cooperating agency status.

5.3.2 Tribal Consultation

In January and February 2010 and September 2011, the BLM initiated consultation with the tribes. Included in the consultation letter was a request for the recipients to become a cooperating agency for the Monument RMP/EIS. The invitation will remain open to tribes as planning continues. Consultation/cooperating agency letters were sent to the following tribes:

- Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Comanche Indian Tribe
- White Mountain Apache
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
- Isleta Pueblo
- Mescalero Apache Tribe
- Navajo Nation
- Acoma Pueblo
- Laguna Pueblo
- Tesuque Pueblo

Several tribes expressed interest in continued notification of planning activities, but no tribe has requested Cooperating Agency status. The State Historic Preservation Office was also notified of the planning process, as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

5.4 ADDITIONAL COLLABORATION

Although the following groups are not defined as cooperating agencies, the BLM has been working with these groups in addition to the general public to encourage input for this RMP. Groups that have helped by providing valuable information are:

New Mexico Museum Natural History and Science
Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science
Las Cruces Four-Wheel Drive Club
New Mexico State University
Paleozoic Trackways Foundation
Smithsonian Institute

During July and August 2013, BLM staff met with numerous individuals and groups regarding a variety of proposals for closure to target shooting and broader discharge of firearms (including hunting). The focus of the meetings was to clarify and distinguish between a proposed Temporary Closure to target shooting in and around PTNM; the specific alternatives in the PTNM Draft RMP/EIS that would make longer term management decisions; and the alternatives presented in the Draft TriCounty RMP, which would encompass additional areas further from the boundary of PTNM.

The groups that were involved in these discussions included: Mesilla Valley Shotgun Sports, Inc., Picacho Gun Club, Doña Ana County Associated Sportsmen, Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen, and the Las Cruces District Office Resource Advisory Council.

Discussions centered on explaining the differences and likely outcomes from the three different actions. There was general understanding of the reasons behind the proposed closures, as well as modest support for the closures. There was also a general concern voiced for how to effectively enforce the closures, how to provide alternative locations that were viable, and how to provide needed education/outreach to improve public awareness and safety.

5.4.1 State and Local Government Plans Summaries

Doña Ana County, New Mexico Natural Events Action Plan (NEAP) Reevaluation 2005

The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Air Quality Bureau has monitored numerous exceedances of the 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) concentration limit for Particulate Matter 10 microns or less (PM10) in Doña Ana County, New Mexico. Since the number of days with exceedances is more than the number allowed by the standard, the County is in violation of the PM10 NAAQS. The Air Quality Bureau's analysis of wind data and other information regarding conditions during the exceedances indicated that all but a few were caused by high winds, which lift and carry dust from exposed dry soil. In response to these exceedances, the NMED, along with the City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County, developed and submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a Natural Events Action Plan (NEAP) for Doña Ana County in 2000.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The intent of this plan is to define how State, Federal, local, and Tribal governmental agencies cooperate to provide for the outdoor recreation needs and demands of the State and justify State and Federal expenditures for outdoor recreation within the State.

New Mexico Historic Preservation Plan- Preserving the Enchantment: 2007-2012

This plan is a compilation of ideas of historic preservation for New Mexico. It is a planning tool for future development of advocacy and preservation of cultural resources.

The 2006 Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

This Strategy is dedicated to expressing sensible approaches to conserving biological diversity in New Mexico in context with surrounding areas. It identifies focus points on species and habitats warranting conservation actions. Further, it organizes existing information and recognizes where important information gaps remain. From that foundation, it identifies cooperative and collaborative approaches to addressing the most important wildlife and habitat conservation needs in time and cost effective ways.

2000 City of Las Cruces Extraterritorial Zoning Comprehensive Plan 2000-2020

To prepare for population growth in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County, the managers and overseers of the Extraterritorial Zone (ETZ) seek to identify goals, objectives, and strategies that will preserve open space, protect the environment, and accommodate the most number of people with the least amount of adverse impact on the area's character and culture.

2005 Las Cruces Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Plan

This Plan identifies and develops a long-range transportation plan for the Las Cruces area. This document covers a planning horizon of 20 years and focuses on mobility and access, efficient system performance, and quality of life. It includes planning for all aspects of the transportation system, including roads, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, public transit, and the airport.

2004 Rio Grande Riparian Ecological Corridor Project Report

The Rio Grande Corridor Project has three components: a Comprehensive Plan for development along an 11-mile corridor of the Rio Grande and two pilot projects -- construction of a 14-acre wetland, and construction of a 1.1-mile multi-use pathway. The Comprehensive Plan is intended as a blueprint and guide for proposed projects along the Corridor which may impact the environment, economic development and quality of life of the region. These two pilot projects complement the larger objectives of the Comprehensive Plan for sustainable development along the Corridor by creating opportunities for multi-jurisdictional cooperation and public involvement.

Vision 2040 Regional Planning Project - City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County

The 2040 Regional Plan serves as an advisory document intended to act as a guiding framework for making mindful decisions when planning and implementing future development within Doña Ana County. It covers the broad aspects of how the residents of Doña Ana County would like to see the County develop. This document serves as a platform for use in developing more detailed comprehensive, master, and site plans. It may also serve as guidance on policy, programming, and capital improvement decisions to local elected and administration officials.

5.5 COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT RMP/EIS

On July 20, 2012, concurrent with the distribution of the *Draft PTNM RMP/EIS*, the EPA notice of availability was published in the *Federal Register* announcing the availability of the draft document for a 90-day public review and comment period. During the review period for the *Draft PTNM RMP/EIS*, the BLM held a public meeting on August 7, 2012, for the purpose of assisting the public in their review of the draft document and soliciting comments.

All comments received by the BLM during the 90-day comment period on the *Draft PTNM RMP/EIS* have been compiled, analyzed, and summarized. The BLM received 45 comment letters. Appendix H presents all comments received and provides a response to substantive comments indicating how the document was modified or why the comment did not warrant a change to document.

The following agencies, organizations, and individuals were notified that the *Proposed PTNM RMP/Final EIS* would be available in paper copy, on compact disc (CD), and on the BLM's Web site. Some have requested and will receive a paper copy or CD for review and comment.

5.6 PROPOSED RMP/FINAL EIS DISTRIBUTION LIST

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Bureau of Land Management

Albuquerque District Office, New Mexico

Pecos District Office, New Mexico

Farmington District Office, New Mexico

New Mexico State Office

Las Cruces District Office

Resource Advisory Council

Bureau of Reclamation

International Boundary and Water Commission Upper Rio Grande Project

Fish and Wildlife Service

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Albuquerque, New Mexico

National Park Service

White Sands National Monument

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Albuquerque District

STATE AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Governor, State of New Mexico

New Mexico Department of Agriculture

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

New Mexico Environment Department

New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department

Mining and Minerals Division

New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office

New Mexico State Land Office

New Mexico State Parks
New Mexico State University
 Office of the President
 Animal and Range Sciences Department
 Geography Department
 Geology Department
 University Museum
 Fish, Wildlife & Conservation Ecology
 Institute for Energy & the Environment
New Mexico Natural Museum of Natural History
University of Texas at El Paso, Texas
 Center for Environmental Resource Management

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

City of Las Cruces, New Mexico
 Museum of Nature and Science
Doña Ana County, New Mexico
Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

Comanche Indian Tribe
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Mescalero Apache Tribe
Fort Sill Apache Indian Tribe
White Mountain Apache Indian Tribe
Jicarilla Apache Tribe
Hopi Tribal Council
Isleta Pueblo
Navajo Nation
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
Acoma Pueblo
Laguna Pueblo
Tesuque Pueblo

CONGRESSIONAL/LEGISLATORS

Senator Tom Udall, State of New Mexico
Senator Martin Heinrich, State of New Mexico
Representative Steve Pearce, 2nd Congressional District of New Mexico
Lee S. Cotter, State Senator District 36
Mary Kay Papen, State Senator District 38
Joseph Cervantes, State Senator District 31
William P. Soules, State Senator District 37
Bill McCamley, NM State Representative District 33
Doreen Y. Gallegos, NM State Representative District 52
Jeff Steinborn, NM State Representative District 35
Phillip M. Archuleta, NM State Representative District 36
Terry H McMillan, NM State Representative, District 37
Mary Helen Garcia, NM State Representative District 34
Nate Cote, NM State Representative District 53

OTHER INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS

Coalition of Arizona/New Mexico Counties
Paleozoic Trackways Foundation
Asombro Institute
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
Center for Biological Diversity
Continental Divide Trail Alliance
New Mexico Farm Bureau
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
League of Women Voters
Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen
Doña Ana County Associated Sportsmen's Association
Sierra Club, Rio Grande Chapter
Sierra Club, Southern NM Group
Earth Justice
Southwest Environmental Center
The Wilderness Society
Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park
Las Cruces 4-Wheel Drive Club
Wild Earth Guardians
Rim Rattlers Mountain Bike Club
Shooting Sports Roundtable
Doña Ana Soil and Water Conservation District

5.7 LIST OF PREPARERS AND REVIEWERS

Table 5-1 lists the *PTNM RMP/EIS* preparers and members of the interdisciplinary team.

Table 5-1 List of Preparers and Reviewers

TABLE 5-1 LIST OF PREPARERS AND REVIEWERS		
NAME	TITLE	RMP/EIS RESPONSIBILITY
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – LAS CRUCES DISTRICT OFFICE INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM		
Jennifer Montoya	Planning and Environmental Specialist	Team Leader 2013 to Present
Lori Allen	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Team Leader 2010 to 1012
Dwayne Sykes	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Technical Assistance
Michael Bailey	Outdoor Recreation Specialist	Wilderness
Kathryn Lloyd	Wilderness Specialist	Wilderness
Greg Bettmann	Rangeland Management Specialist	Rangeland Resources, Livestock, Vegetation/ Noxious Weeds
McKinney Briske	Park Ranger	Recreation and Visitor Services
Ricky Cox	Fire Management Specialist	Fire Management
Cory Durr	Hydrologist	Soil And Water Resources
Rena Gutierrez	Writer and Editor	Editor/Document Management
Patricia Hester and Sherrie Landon	Paleontologist	Paleontology
Ray Hewitt	GIS Specialist	Geographic Information System
Tom Holcomb	Archeologist	Cultural Resources
Lorraine Salas and Kendrah Penn	Realty Specialists	Lands And Realty
Mike Smith	Geologist	Geology and Minerals
Chris Teske	AML/HazMat/Safety	Abandoned Mine Lands & Hazmat
John Thacker	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Trails And Travel Management, Visual Resource Management
Steven Torrez	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife and Special Status Species
Jane Childress	NMSO Interpretation and Heritage Education Lead	Interpretation and Education
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – LAS CRUCES DISTRICT OFFICE MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT		
William Childress	District Manager	
Jim McCormick	Assistant District Manager, Renewable Resources	
Dave Wallace	Assistant District Manger, Multi-Resources	
Tom Phillips	Recreation/Cultural Supervisor	
Rusty Stovall	Engineering/Operations/GIS Supervisor	
Ray Lister	Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist	
Leticia Lister	Supervisory Rangeland Resource Specialist	
Edward Seum	Lands & Minerals Supervisor	
Mark Bernal	Fire Management Officer	
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICE REVIEWERS		
Megan Stouffer	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	
Melanie Barnes	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	
Dave Goodman	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	
William Auby	Geologist	
Roger Cumpian	Rangeland Management Specialist	
Jeanne Hoadley	Air Resources	
Mary Uhl	Air Resources	
Roger Jagers	Outdoor Recreation Planner	
Powell King	Mining Engineer	
Billy “Link” Lacewell	Soil/Air/Water, Hazmat	
Philip Gensler	Regional Paleontologist	
Sherrie Landon	Paleontologist	
Signa Larralde	Archeologist	
Sheila Herhahn	Archeologist	
Debby Lucero	Lands and Realty Team Leader	
John Selkirk	Fire Management Specialist	
Lisa Bye	Fuels Specialist	
John Sherman	Wildlife Biologist	
Mary Kay Ramsay	T&E Wildlife Biologist	
James Sippel	NLCS Program Lead	
Jay Spielman	Geologist	